



Notice of Availability Explanation of Significant Differences

Coast Wood Preserving Site Ukiah, California



The State of California, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has prepared an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) for the Coast Wood Preserving Site (Site) which is located at the intersection of Taylor and Plant Roads in Ukiah, California. Operations at the Site use a solution containing arsenic, chromium and copper (ACC) to treat wood. Arsenic and hexavalent chromium have contaminated the soil and ground water at the Site. Arsenic and hexavalent chromium are not safe for human health or the environment if present in high concentrations. Investigations have found that these chemicals have not traveled off-site. Coast Wood has since built a slurry cutoff wall and paved the Site to contain the contamination.

In 1989, DTSC approved a Remedial Action Plan (RAP), which recommended that contaminated soil would be excavated and treated on site when the Coast Wood facility closed its operations. The RAP also recommended that contaminated ground water would be extracted and treated by an electrochemical process. This process involves removing hexavalent chromium from the groundwater. The approved RAP established cleanup goals for the Site.

In 1999, the approved RAP for the Site was changed and a RAP Amendment was approved by DTSC. The RAP Amendment added a process called in-situ reduction and fixation of hexavalent chromium as part of the remedy. This process removes the hexavalent chromium by injecting calcium polysulfide into the groundwater.

In August, 2003, DTSC approved a document called an Explanation of Significant Differences. This document changes the cleanup goals established in the 1989 approved RAP. These changes are considered to be significant and require that the ESD document be prepared and that the public be notified.

The ESD document for Coast Wood has changed the cleanup goals based on a health-based risk assessment conducted in March 2002. This health-based risk assessment evaluated the risk of direct human exposure to arsenic and hexavalent chromium. This risk assessment determined what the safe level of hexavalent chromium in soil is in order to be protective of groundwater.

Previously, the cleanup goals for Coast Wood were established based on cleanup activities which were to be conducted after the Coast Wood facility was closed. At this time, Coast Wood does not plan to close its operations. The ESD document approves soil cleanup to be conducted in some areas of the Site while Coast Wood is still in operation. In other areas of the Site, where soil contamination is covered by existing wood treatment cylinders and/or structures, cleanup will still occur after operations cease as was approved by the 1989 RAP. The new soil cleanup goals are now based on the protection of on-site workers in a commercial/industrial setting. In addition, the new cleanup goal for hexavalent chromium in soil has been established to prevent contamination in the soil from leaching into the groundwater and to ensure the current drinking water standard is met.

These significant changes to the approved RAP are explained in detail in the ESD document.

The ESD and other Site-related documents are available for public review at the following locations:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200
Berkeley, CA 94710
(510) 540-3800

Mendocino County Library
105 N. Main Street
Ukiah, California 95482
(707) 7463-4491

The full administrative record for the Site is available at the DTSC address shown above. An appointment is required to review the full administrative record and can be made by calling the number listed above. For more information about the project or to request a copy of the ESD, you may contact Patrick Lee, Project Manager, at (510) 540-3847 and plee1@dtsc.ca.gov or Rachelle Maricq, Public Participation Specialist, at (510) 540-3910 and rmaricq@dtsc.ca.gov. For media inquiries contact Angela Blanchette, Public Information Officer at (510) 540-3732 and ablanchette@dtsc.ca.gov.